

REMARKS

Review and reconsideration on the merits are requested.

The Claims

All claims are amended with reference to the PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT of January 23, 2006.

Claim Amendments

It is believed that the Examiner will find the claim amendments to be self-explanatory.

Claim 4 has been canceled and rewritten as independent claim 9.

The Prior Art

U.S. 6,245,832 Suzuki et al (Suzuki - relied upon in the last Action); WO-2001/06057 Dupont et al. The Examiner is relying upon U.S. 7,138,160 Dupont (Dupont) as an English translation of WO-2001/06057. U.S. 2003/023914 Devonport et al (Devonport).

The Rejections

There are two rejections.

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are rejected as obvious over Suzuki in view of Dupont. Paragraph 3 of the Action.

Claim 4 is rejected as obvious over Suzuki in view of Dupont and Davenport. Paragraph 9 of the Action.

The Examiner's position is set forth in the Action on the rejections and will not be repeated here except as necessary to an understanding of Applicants' traversal which is now presented.

Traversal

With respect to the Examiner's reading on Suzuki, Applicants accept that reading.

With respect to the Examiner's reading of Dupont, Dupont does not disclose a dispersant for an ink. Suzuki deals with inkjet materials. Dupont deals with paper and cardboard manufacture and in particular water-retention agents and rheology modifying agents.

Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be led to combine Suzuki with Dupont in view of the difference in arts involved.

Further, when it is considered that there is no disclosure in Dupont which one of ordinary skill in the art would associate with a dispersant for an ink, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's reliance upon Dupont as set forth in Paragraph 6 of the Action is misplaced and any rejection predicated upon Dupont is properly withdrawn.

With specific reference to the rejection of claim 4, now rewritten in independent form and specific to a cationic monomer, with specific reference to paragraph [0013] of Davenport, and paragraph [0015] of Davenport, neither paragraph supports the conclusion that Davenport discloses a cationic monomer. While paragraph [0013] of Davenport might mention "anionic monomer" and might mention an "ionic monomer," Davenport is silent regarding the subject matter of claim 4 (rewritten as independent claim 9).

Turning to Applicants' use of "consisting essentially of" in the claims, Applicants respectfully wish to point out that Dupont, being specific to the manufacture of paper coating colors, is directed to systems which involve substantial amounts of a filler and rather small amounts of the Dupont novel agent. For instance, see Dupont at col. 5, lines 13-17. Note also col. 5, line 20, and col. 5, line 37.

When one refers to the working EXAMPLES of Dupont, it is easily seen that Dupont is directed to a system wherein very high proportions of materials such as calcium carbonate (Example 1), calcium carbonate-kaolin (EXAMPLE 2) and calcium carbonate (EXAMPLE 3)

are used. Quite clearly the consisting essentially of language in the claims reflects the fact that the present invention is directed to an aqueous ink where clearly the components in Dupont would alter the novel and essential characteristics of the invention.

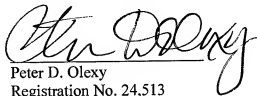
The Examiner's attention is also directed in this regard to new claim 13 and new claim 14, wherein the aqueous ink is limited to an inkjet ink and the pigment size is further limited per the specification at page 14, lines 2-4 from the bottom of the page.

Applicants have already commented upon Davenport failing to disclose "a cationic monomer"; accordingly, even if the Examiner remains unconvinced of Applicants' arguments regarding the patentability of claim 1 as currently amended, quite clearly claim 9 is patentable over the prior art. Applicants also respectfully request the Examiner to separately consider claims 13 and 14.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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